



Keeping The Faith

Amateur Radio is somewhat unique in its ability to shrug off the limiting effects of the Corona Virus. Much of what we do can still be done as it was in the before times. No level of lock down or quarantine can stop the transmission of radio waves around the world. We're lucky in that respect.

Nevertheless, we have lost a bit of the personal touch in seeing old friends on a regular basis. More check ins to the weekly net and the new breakfast nets fill some of that void.

Your officers and volunteers have been trying to keep things moving along as well. A list of recently donated equipment was cataloged, priced and sold to raise money for the club. Club taxes have been filed. We have a first attempt at enabling the [joining and renewal of club membership](#) entirely through electronic means on the [vomarc.org](#) website.

It's looking more likely that Field Day this year will have to be a different type of affair than that to which we have grown accustomed. A large group gathering in June is not looking likely. Instead, a coordinated, distributed effort with individual members' entries might be an option. Some ideas for this should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

We'll try to keep things as normal as possible during the crisis with another monthly meeting held via Zoom. If not a member then use our [join us page](#) to get on the list! We'll go over some business as best we can, shoot the breeze and have a presentation on Remote Ham Radio. There will be no snacks or drinks, so please bring your own.

—By Robert KA5WSS

NEXT MEETING

Wed, May 20, 2020, 7:30pm

Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: Remote Ham Radio

Minutes, April 15 Meeting

Meeting very successfully held on ZOOM that was set up by KA5WSS

KA5WSS (Robert), N7TSQ (Joe), KE6HID (Andrew), W1EJ (Ed), KM6ZUC (Bruce), AB7LG (Bill), NJ6E (Stan), KG6N (Frank), N6TVN (Carl), KG6QNT (Eileen), N7PIB (San), W8EWL (John), KJ6QIQ (Scott), W5LTP (Sam), KJ6EIG (Bill), KD6FIL (Dave), KH6GJV (Bill), AA6RH (Randy).

Meeting called to order at 19:32 by illustrious president KA5WSS

MINUTES

Minutes from the February meeting were approved

Radio Officer

Roof going on the house!!!!

TREASURER

Currently have \$3,814.92 in the bank. VOMARC does have a PayPal account and we will set it up to pay dues online as time allows.

SECRETARY

Need to do the taxes.

Vice President

No updates

Training

School closed

PRESIDENT

No response from the library regarding book donations. Books are available for loan and will be stored at the EOC radio room. Will look into donating to a local group. (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, any suggestions?)

NEW BUSINESS

List of Equipment that was donated by KE6ULW is being finalized and will be sent out to club members to purchase items.

DMR Nets:

On Thursday, at 6:30 PM the Sonoma County 31707 Talk Group has a net coordinated by AA6RH.

On Friday AA6RH has a DMR simplex net at 4 PM on 446.5, Color Code 1, Time Slot 1 and Talk Group 99.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

Mystery Box: Jack, K6ZMF has the box and the Mystery Box program is on hold for a while

PROGRAM

Shack photos on ZOOM. NJ6E, KM6ZUC, KA5WSS, W8EWL, KD6FIL

Meeting adjourned at 2015.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

April Meeting

—By Robert KA5WSS

By all accounts the April VOMARC meeting, the first VOMARC meeting ever held on Zoom, was a success. The attendee high point was 19 individuals. Not a bad turnout at all. Thanks to all who attended and we hope to see more of you in May.

The topic for April was "Show Off Your Shack". Here are a few screenshots.

Stan's (NJ6E) well appointed operating and testing station:



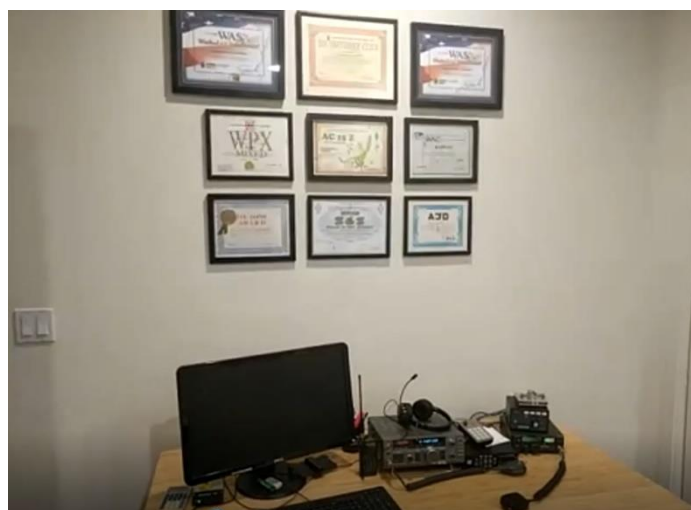
Stan has an impressive set of antennas outside as well:



Just a sampling of the radios at Bruce's (KM6ZUC) shack:



Robert (KA5WSS) uses this modest setup mostly for digital modes:



Ham Radio and the Coronavirus

Ham Radio, and the world at large, continue to be subjected to unprecedented setbacks and shutdowns.

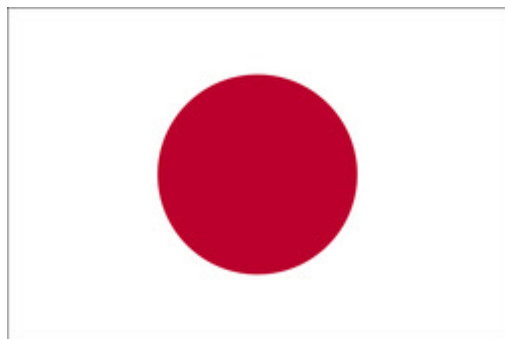
- Europe's largest Amateur Radio convention, HAM RADIO, in Friedrichshafen, Germany (June 26-28) has been cancelled.
- The ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference to be held September 11-13. Has **not** been cancelled. However, it will be held solely online.
- The 2020 Central States VHF Society conference set for July has been cancelled.
- Contest University will be held in May, but only via Zoom.

- Icom's release of their IC-705 QRP rig has been delayed until later this year.
- The ARRL is suggesting some creative approaches to Field Day 2020. Some clubs are setting up intra-club competitions.
- Remote administered Amateur Radio exams were an experiment prior to COVID-19, but it may be the wave of the near future.
- The 2020 Amateur Radio Direction Finding World Championship has been cancelled.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Japan is set to expand access to 160 meters

Yoshi Shoji, JG7AMD, reports that Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications that the expansion will permit SSB on that band. The current 160-meter band in Japan consists of 1810 - 1825 kHz (CW) plus 1907.5 - 1912.5 for CW and data. Japan will allocate 1800 - 1810 kHz and 1825 - 1875 kHz for all amateur radio modes. An effective date has not yet been announced.



(From the ARRL Letter)

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Jargon

Zero-beat - As a verb, changing one frequency to match another. In the old days, this was done by ear for carrier frequencies, and any frequency difference could be heard as a third tone, the difference between the two. For frequencies that

are very close, the difference sounds like a thump or a beat. Eliminating the beat means the frequencies are the same. As an adjective, it describes a frequency that is the same as another. Nowadays, zero-beating a CW signal can be done by some radios with the press of a button - for example, the [Auto-SPOT function in the Elecraft K3](#).

(From the ARRL Contest Update)

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Misc

The first reported QSO on 70cm across the Atlantic Ocean without the use of satellites or the Moon was recently reported. The stations on the island of Guadeloupe in North America and Cape Verde Islands off the coast of Africa used FT8 to make contact.

<http://www.arrrl.org/news/first-transatlantic-contact-on-70-centimeters-reported>

And the records keep being broken. A transatlantic 2M contact spanning 2,951 miles was reported to have taken place on April 8th. The QSO, between PJ2BR on Curacao and D4VHF on the Cape Verde Islands used the FT8 digital mode. Though impressive, the contact was a scant 10 kilometers short of the IARU Region 1 tropospheric propagation record for the band.

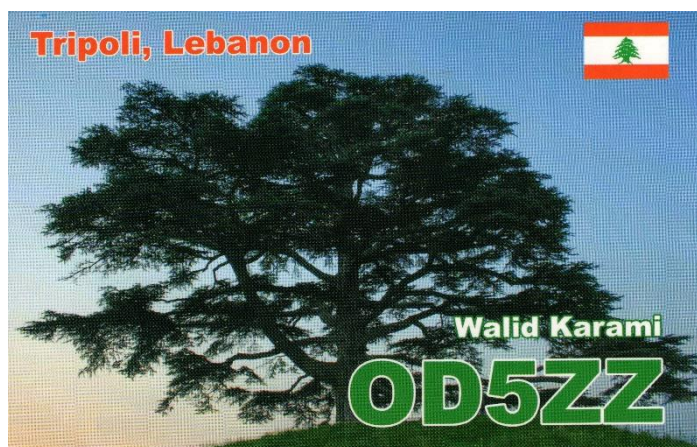
ARRL members now have free access to



electronic versions of the National Contest Journal (NCJ) and QEX, the Forum for Communications Experimenters.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

From The QSL Inbox



One of the famous Cedars of Lebanon.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 24 EDITION 4

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Jim Hill K6UUW – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

VACANT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Black Bear Restaurant, 201 W Napa St, #34 (Marketplace Shopping Center), Sonoma. The fun starts at 08:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—OR—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

**2020 ACS
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2020 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	MOE	KI6JNU
AUGUST	CARL	N6TVN
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 18, 2020, 7:30PM

AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC IN THE SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 1ST St West, Sonoma 95476

SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2020

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.